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# Advocate of Peace.

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## Kaiser William's Interview in the London Daily Telegraph.

The interview of Emperor William with a retired British diplomat, published on October 28 in the *London Daily Telegraph*, stirred and irritated the German people to a most extraordinary degree. In all the larger capitals of Europe also it produced a very bad impression.

The Emperor has been compelled by the overwhelming force of public opinion, both in the Reichstag and throughout the country, to give assurances that he will not hereafter meddle personally in the foreign relations of the nation, but will conform himself to the constitutional methods of the government and speak only through his authorized counsellors. Indeed, he seems to have meant to do so in this case, but failed because of a slip in the Foreign Office. If the final result shall be the creation of a cabinet responsible directly to the Parliament, as is the English Cabinet, it will be of very great profit to Germany, both in her internal and, more particularly, in her external affairs.

The event has given occasion for a number of re-

lections, and ought to teach several important lessons not only to the German government and people, but also to those of other countries.

The first of these reflections is that international relations have now become so complex and all-interlacing, and the intelligent classes of the people so interested in and conversant with them, that there is no longer any place for the old monarchical methods of handling them. In other words, diplomacy ought now to go always in its "shirt sleeves." The time demands openness, frankness and straightforwardness, as well as self-restraint, wisdom and considerateness. Whatever is done is sure to get out sooner or later through the lynx-eyed press and other means of bringing to light whatever comes to pass. Every move must finally pass under the critical eye of the general public. It may still be necessary in certain cases to keep negotiations from the public in their preliminary stages, but the sooner the press and the public are taken into confidence, the better for all concerned. No emperor or cabinet or diplomat can in these days safely do anything that he does not wish to have meet him when he turns the first corner.

Again, international relations, like internal affairs, are being very rapidly democratized. The people have discovered, after centuries of duping, that the burdens of all international false policies and disturbances and conflicts fall first and heaviest upon them, and that they have a right, either directly or through their representatives, to say what shall be the policies of their governments in respect to other countries. They know now, most of them, that they, and not their sovereign, constitute the nation. The German Emperor has been slow to learn this lesson, but he has been taught it this time in a way that he is not likely ever to forget. The chief cause of the indignation of the German people over his interview published in London was not so much what he said,—though that was in part irritating,—but the fact that he spoke as if he were the German Empire—government, people and all—and that his *volk* were only his mute followers. Their action in "turning him down" is therefore one of the most encouraging events of recent years. It is a signal evidence that the principles of popular government, on which finally, politically speaking, the permanency of peace rests, are taking deep root everywhere and already bearing abundant fruit.

It is hardly worth while to attempt to point out in detail the bearing of this fact upon the future peace